

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 /079 W

----- 048349

R 020843Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2917

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1965

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, CB

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS GKR

REF: A) STATE 064601; (B) JAKARTA 3573 (NOTAL);
(C) CANBERRA 1026 (NOTAL)

1. REF A ASKS FOR COMMENT ON REMARK ATTRIBUTED TO AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILLESEE BY ADAM MALIK (REF B) THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD RECOGNIZE WHICHEVER CAMBODIAN REGIME WHICH GETS UN SEAT.

2. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF AUSTRALIAN POLICY WAS REPORTED IN REF C, NAMELY, THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE LON NOL GOVERNMENT AND VOTE FOR ITS ACCREDITATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS PROVIDED 1) IT CONTINUES TO CONTROL PHNOM PENH; AND 2) IT CONTINUES TO HAVE MAJORITY SUPPORT IN UN. WE HAVE SEEN NO INDICATION OF ANY CHANGE IN AUSTRALIAN POLICY IN THIS REGARD. ON CONTRARY, EVIDENT FAILURE OF COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE TO CAPTURE PHNOM PENH AND SOMEWHAT MORE GENEROUS ATTITUDE RECENTLY DISPLAYED BY PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM TOWARDS CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR IN CANBERRA, SEEM TO SUGGEST THAT AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE ITS
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VIEWS UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. BELIEVE THAT EITHER ADAM

MALIK MISSED ONE OF TWO CONDITIONS WHICH AUSTRALIAN DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS CONSISTENTLY APPLIED TO RECOGNITION ISSUE OR SENATOR WILLESEE INADVERTENTLY FAILED TO MENTION BOTH CONDITIONS IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH MALIK.

3. AS EMBASSY POINTED OUT IN REF C, WE ARE UNABLE TO PARSE POSITION FURTHER. WE REMAIN UNABLE TO PREDICT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, IF, FOR EXAMPLE, A PORTION OF PHNOM PENH WERE TO COME UNDER KHMER ROUGE CONTROL OR FUNK/GRUNK WERE ADMITTED TO UNGA, REPLACING GKR. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ACCEPT AUSTRALIAN POSITION AS DFA HAS OUTLINED IT TO US. EVENTS SEEM TO BE MOVING IN FAVOR OF GKR, TO AT LEAST MODERATE EXTENT, AND AS LONG AS THIS PROCESS CONTINUES, CHANGE IN AUSTRALIAN POLICY IS UNLIKELY. SHOULD BE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT LABOR GOVERNMENT IS NOT RPT NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT LON NOL GOVERNMENT AND WILL NOT HOLD TO ITS PRESENT ATTITUDES TOWARDS GKR IF COMMUNISTS BEGIN TO APPEAR TO BE ON WINNING SIDE IN PRESENT STRUGGLE FOR POWER IN CAMBODIA.

GREEN

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Message Attributes

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